

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

*April 2, 2002
5:30 p.m.*

MINUTES



“Where Dreams Can Soar”

The City of Bonney Lake’s Mission is to protect the community’s livable identity and scenic beauty through responsible growth planning and by providing accountable, accessible and efficient local government services.

Call to Order

Mayor Young called the workshop to order at 5:30 p.m. In attendance with Mayor Young were Deputy Mayor Swatman, Councilmember Stephen Bricker (arrived at 5:55 p.m.), Councilmember Phil DeLeo, Councilmember Neil Johnson, Councilmember Dave King, Councilmember Maureen Palecek, and Councilmember Jim Rackley. Staff attending were Finance Director John Weidenfeller, Public Works Director Seth Boettcher, (arrived after roll call), Interim Planning & Community Development Director Bob Leedy, Maintenance and Operations Supervisor Rick Shannon, Assistant Public Works Director Gary Leaf (arrived after roll call), Lt. Mike Strozek, Deputy City Attorney David Britton, and City Clerk Gayle Butcher.

Agenda Items

1. Joint Meeting with Park Board

Maintenance and Operations Supervisor Rick Shannon introduced Park Board Members Leota Musgrave, Joe Sexton, Carol Ujeck, Margaret Ferrell, and Dan Totten. Discussed were this year’s Park Board agenda items; i.e., Skateboard Park, replacement of the Big Toy, Concession Stand Agreement, and development of By-laws. Council was also briefed on the process for using the parks. Mayor Young thanked the Board members for serving.

2. Presentation by East Pierce Fire & Rescue (EPFR) Chief Dan Packer

Chief Packer thanked Mayor Young and the Council for the opportunity to update them on the configuration history of East Pierce Fire & Rescue and the past year’s accomplishments. He introduced Fire Commissioners Roger Coleman, Rick Kuss (Chair), Pat Claffey, and noted Commissioner Karlyne McGinnis could not be here this evening. Chief Packer also introduced Assistant Fire Chief Dave Wakefield.

Chief Packer noted that EPFR primary emergency service is providing medical aid along with fire, floods, water rescue and emergency services, and he reviewed the current staffing levels and emergency response improvements as a result of the consolidation.

Chief Packer touched on agreement issues reached with the City in regard to equipment rental and replacement rolling stock, Inlet Island Station, Training Facility funding and the 5-year lease of the Public Safety Building.

Chief Packer noted he serves the City as the Director of Emergency Services as authorized by the City’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan that was updated June 2000. A brief discussion on the roles of City staff and coordination with the City and Fire District during a disaster or emergency was held. Staff members from Police, Public Works and planning attend the monthly meetings at the Emergency Operations Center.

3. Executive Session – To Discuss Labor Negotiations & Potential Litigation

Mayor Young called for a 5-minute recess prior to the Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations and potential litigation at 6:37 p.m. Mayor Young reconvened the workshop at 7:05 p.m. Councilmember DeLeo excused himself from the workshop. Councilmember Rackley asked for another few minutes in Executive Session to clarify an issue. Mayor Young recessed to Executive Session at 7:07 p.m. to discuss potential litigation and reconvened the workshop at 7:23 p.m. Council did not take any action as a result of the Executive Session.

4. Open Discussion

Deputy Mayor Swatman asked if Public Works Director Boettcher would be able to estimate the amount of fire flow water lost as a result of the Wal ☆ Mart Construction mishap. Public Works Director Boettcher stated he would only be able to provide an estimate.

Councilmember Bricker asked Public Works Director Boettcher on how much water would be saved upon repair of the Driftwood Main. Public Works Director Boettcher noted he could provide the number of emergency repairs to the main.

Public Works Director Boettcher confirmed with the Sewer Advisory Committee members that they would be able to attend a meeting Thursday.

Deputy Mayor Swatman wondered if the Design Commission members would be sworn in and whether minutes of their meetings would be published. Interim Planning & Community Development Director Leedy responded that the Design Commissioners are an advisory body and technically do not need to be sworn in such as a decision-making body. He noted the first meeting was held so Commissioners could meet each other, establish their terms of office, and the minutes were published.

Deputy Mayor Swatman noted a Planning Agency Member requested to be provided with business cards and the request was not fulfilled. Deputy City Attorney Britton confirmed Mayor Young's response that Planning Agency members do not have a constituency (as does Council), and business cards would give the public a false sense that Planning Agency members have some type of representation. Mayor Young has provided a copy of the memorandum to Council of the legal opinion.

Councilmember Rackley stated he would be on vacation for the next two meetings and asked for Council's consideration in excusing his absence.

Mayor Young announced a vacancy on the Planning Agency and that the City is seeking to attract prospective candidates.

Also noted is that the Planning Assistant, David Renaud, resigned for personal reasons. Council reviewed the material presented by Interim Planning & Community Development Director Leedy, which is requesting a reclassification of the position to an Associate Planner. He is also requesting funding for salary and benefits at the Associate Planner level. Director Leedy emphasized the need to fast-forward the hiring process so that the potential candidate would have some overlap time with Mr. Renaud. Council discussed the evolution of the organization and staffing levels of the Planning Department and assessment by the Director of the Department. Director Leedy noted part of his assessment is the elimination of the

Senior Planner position, and he is requesting Council authorize advertising for the skills that need to be sufficient and are being performed by the incumbent, Mr. Renaud. Council noted with the confirmation of Mayor Young that a Senior Planner position is not part of the re-organization and the position would not be part of a future budget request, Senior Planner funds sequestered in the Contingency Fund would be utilized for the Associate Planner reclassification. Finance Director Weidenfeller will prepare the necessary resolution to authorize the re-classification and funding.

Deputy Mayor Swatman questioned Director Leedy if the Hearing Examiner Decision related to the Water Tank had been issued. Director Leedy explained that the hearing is open until SEPA closes and that the report would then be completed about 2 weeks after SEPA closes.

5. Draft Minutes: March 2, 2002 and March 19, 2002

There were no corrections to the minutes.

Old Business

Motion by Councilmember Rackley to table the countywide Pierce County policy resolutions. A brief discussion was held and Councilmember Rackley removed his motion from the table. Council consensus was to move forward Resolution Nos. 947, 948, 949, 950 and 951.

1. Res 947 Joint Planning Policies – Countywide Pierce County
2. Res 948 Buildable Lands Policies – Countywide Pierce County
3. Res 949 ESA Policies – Countywide Pierce County
4. Res 950 Elimination of Tiering – Countywide Pierce County
5. Res 951 General Cleanup – Countywide Pierce County
6. Revised Parade Permit Review/Discussion (Ord 946)

Councilmember Rackley requested that non-profit organizations pay the deposit fee, but he agreed that non-profits should be exempt from paying the permit fee. After a brief discussion, Mayor Young noted that this is a new ordinance and that as the regulation is tested out, the City should be prepared to adjust those areas that do not work out.

7. Water/Sewer Rate Ordinance No. 907 & 916 (per 3/19/02 Discussion)

Public Works Director Seth Boettcher distributed ¾” meter block water rate and customer usage analyses. Assistant Public Works Director Gary Leaf explained the financial model theory he used in preparing the rate structures. Deputy Mayor Swatman noted he had prepared his own financial rate model and explained his rate structure. Council discussed which type of user should pay the higher rate; i.e., 1,000 cubic feet and below or 1,500 cubic feet and above, and how these theories would impact water conservation efforts as well as Senior Citizens.

Mayor Young asked for a roll call direction on which financial method staff should finalize; i.e., rate structure based on 1,000 cubic feet or 1,500 cubic feet. Majority of Council concurred that the water rates with 1,000 cubic fee usage and below would benefit from the cheaper rate structure, and that the rate increase should be on a 12-month basis versus 6-month basis.

Council discussion reviewed the proposed sewer rate structure. A lengthy debate on Senior Rate Discounts for qualified Senior Citizens was held. The discussions related to appropriate inflationary percentages. Council requested staff prepare an ordinance to maintain the discount percentage with today's inflationary structure.

New Business

1. Discuss Recommendation by Planning Agency on Ordinance No. 908 C-2/C-3

Interim Planning & Community Development Director Bob Leedy reviewed the Planning Agency recommendation and Council consensus was to move the ordinance forward.

2. Discuss Recommendation by Planning Agency on Ordinance No. 927 – Nonconforming Text

Interim Planning & Community Development Director Bob Leedy reviewed the Planning Agency recommendation and he noted the substance of the ordinance was housekeeping. Council consensus was to move the ordinance forward.

3. Exempt Employee Benefit Discussion – Ordinance No. 951

Finance Director John Weidenfeller explained that the City's 457 deferred compensation plan available to all employees. He explained the history of the union contracts with the Police Guild, which provided for a matching program. He also noted the former city administrator had inappropriately authorized the exempt Police positions of Police Chief (formerly held by Don Frazier) and Lieutenant (formerly held by Bryan Jeter) to benefit from the match because of the Police Guild contract. Finance Director John Weidenfeller reminded Council that it had recently validated the deferred compensation match to the exempt Police positions provided inappropriately by the former city administrator. However, the match for the Police Chief and Lieutenant positions has been stopped because the positions are not part of the Guild contract. Finance Director John Weidenfeller stated what is being presented this evening to the Council is a request to authorize a deferred compensation match for all exempt employees as part of an exempt benefit package.

Council called upon Lt. Strozek to present his perspective of the police benefits. He explained the history of the Police and Fire union benefits that included education and clothing allowances.

Council consensus was that the Police Chief and the Police Lieutenant should not be penalized and concurred that the Police Chief and Police Lieutenant positions are entitled to the deferred compensation match as currently stated in the Guild contract.

Council wanted to review the deferred compensation package for the remaining exempt employees during the Year 2003 Budget cycle.

4. Discuss Deputy City Clerk/Personnel Coordinator Position

Finance Director John Weidenfeller presented his proposal to separate the duties of Deputy City Clerk and Personnel Coordinator into two separate part-time positions. He noted he is discussing the possibility of job sharing with either the City of Enumclaw or the City of Buckley for the Personnel Coordinator position. He noted if the part-time Deputy City Clerk position is authorized, the extra hire funding for the Clerk's office would go away.

Council noted some concern with the proposed approach, and Finance Director John Weidenfeller noted it was a creative approach and one that “thinks out of the box” as Deputy Mayor Swatman has often asked staff to do. Consensus of the Council was to continue discussion at the next workshop.

Councilmember Bricker noted the time and asked Interim Planning & Community Development Director Leedy if discussion of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Process was urgent this evening. Director Leedy responded there was no urgency.

Motion by Councilmember Bricker, second by Councilmember Rackley, to table the Comprehensive Plan Amendment process to another workshop and to adjourn the workshop at 9:23 p.m.

Bob Young, Mayor

Gayle Butcher, City Clerk